IS1404 E-READ: Evolution of Reading in the Age of Digitization

Position paper

Name: Teresa Sylvester

WG(s): WG 3

[Total length: 300-500 words]

1. **Potential research contribution** in light of, or linked to

A. WG interest and Scientific programme:

My scientific background includes a Bachelor in Psychology and I'm currently studying in the MSc. Program: Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience [at the Freie Universität Berlin]. My previous research was focused on the emotional content of words, measured through ratings for arousal, valence and imageability. My interest is in studying how word meanings change over the life span. This research is based on the BAWL (SOURCE), in which adults rate a wordlist. I have started to create a KidBAWL, with word ratings gathered from children.

My current focus is the study of children, who have just learned to read. Subsequently this research will be augmented in various ways, for example by examining if differences in word meanings arise from written or spoken words, and whether the word ratings change over the course of a lifespan. Within these topics, I´m also interested in investigating the age at which gender differences appear as currently reported in the BAWL. The research on neural correlates of affective word processing is also a topic of interest. Additionally, I would like to test whether impairments like dyslexia mediate or change the emotional aspectsof words. I foresee in this research the potential for a significant impact on clinical psychology, pedagogy, and developmental psychology and other practical applications.. Currently, I have started to create a design for my master thesis in which I will continue to compile word ratings of children with and without a dyslexia background and additionally apply neuroimaging methods, probably fNIRS.

B. Action objectives (pages 7-10 in the MoU):

Within my previous KidBAWL research I worked with computer-based rating and would now like to add measurements from fNIRS or fMRI studies. An eye tracking experimental design would also be possible. I`m interested in working and establishing an interdisciplinary team, in which the focus would be on tracking emotional development with regard to reading, and in which we would work on transferring our research into several practical fields, as clinical interventions or educational and pedagogical implementations.

2. Interest in

A. organizing and/or participating in a **short-term scientific mission (STSM).**

Optional: pursuing what research questions/projects; where to/with whom; linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

Yes, preferred topics include research on emotional development in children with regard to reading and its transfer to various practical fields.

B. organizing and/or participating in a **Training School** (please indicate what kind of training [theoretical; methodological; technical]).

Optional: linked to what objective(s) of the Action:

In general, I`d like to participate in a methodological Training School, particularly one concerned with the relationship between reading and emotions.